18. Sanitation and Conservancy—Cranganur Rs. 3,989

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Sir I move for an allotment of Rs. 3,989, under 18—Sanitation and Conservancy—Cranganur.

Demand put and carried

3. Village Panchayats—Rs. 4,02,873

Mr. T. K. Nayar *(Minister for Rural Development)*: Sir, I move for an allotment of Rs. 4,02,873, under 3—Village Panchayats. There are several cut motions. As such, I shall explain my position when these cut motions are moved. I do not wish to take up the time of the House now.

CUT MOTION No. 1

Increasing the number of Panchayat Members of the Melur Panchayat

Mr. A. V. Moothedan *(Chalakkudi)*: Sir, I beg to move "*To reduce the allotment of Rs. 4,929, for Administrative Establishment by Re. 1, to request the Government to increase the number of Panchayat members of the Melur Panchayat from 5 to 7 so as to give increased representation to Melur Village.*"

At present Melur and Muringur Vadakkummuri are clubbed together and there is only one Panchayat for the whole area. The area of Melur village is 5,009 acres and of Muringur Vadakkummuri, it is 689 acres. The population of Melur village is 8,564 and that of Muringur Vadakkummuri 1819. This information was given in answer to a question put a few days before. There are 5 members to this Panchayat; 3 are taken from Melur and 2 from Muringur Vadakkummuri. Considering the population of the area, this proportion of 3 members to 2 members is very unfair, so far as Melur is concerned. And ever since the Panchayat was started, nobody from Melur has been able to become the Panchayat President, though it forms the major part of the Panchayat area. It is due to the fact that Muringur by hook or by crook, got this privilege of having 2 members. Last year there was a lot of trouble. All the elected members of Melur resigned membership as a protest; a re-election was ordered; re-election did not take place. There was so much agitation. The root of the matter, is that nobody from Melur Village has a chance of becoming the Panchayat President. That is the position. The representation so far given to Melur is totally inadequate. If Melur Village is given 5 and Muringur Vadakkummuri given 2 members, Muringur will get more than its due. This can be done if the membership is increased. I would request the Hon'ble Minister to look into this matter.

The House rose for the day at 4-58 p.m.

K. S. RAGHAVAN

Secretary to the Council

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